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COMICS™

STAR WARS:
TALES OF THE JEDI
PART 1 OF 3

WRITER: TOM VEITCH
ARTIST: JANINE JOHNSTON
LETTERER: JOHN COSTANZA
COLORIST: MATTHEW HOLLINGSWORTH
AFTERWORD: TOM VEITCH

MAD DOGS
PART 4 OF 4

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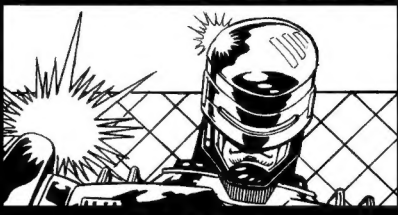
PENCILLER: ANDY DIMITT
INKERS: CHRIS WARNER, BRIAN GARVEY
LETTERER: CLEM ROBINS
COLORIST: AIRIKA LINDSAY



ROBOCOP:
INVASIONS · PART 2 OF 4

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BLOOD FEUD · PART 4 OF 4

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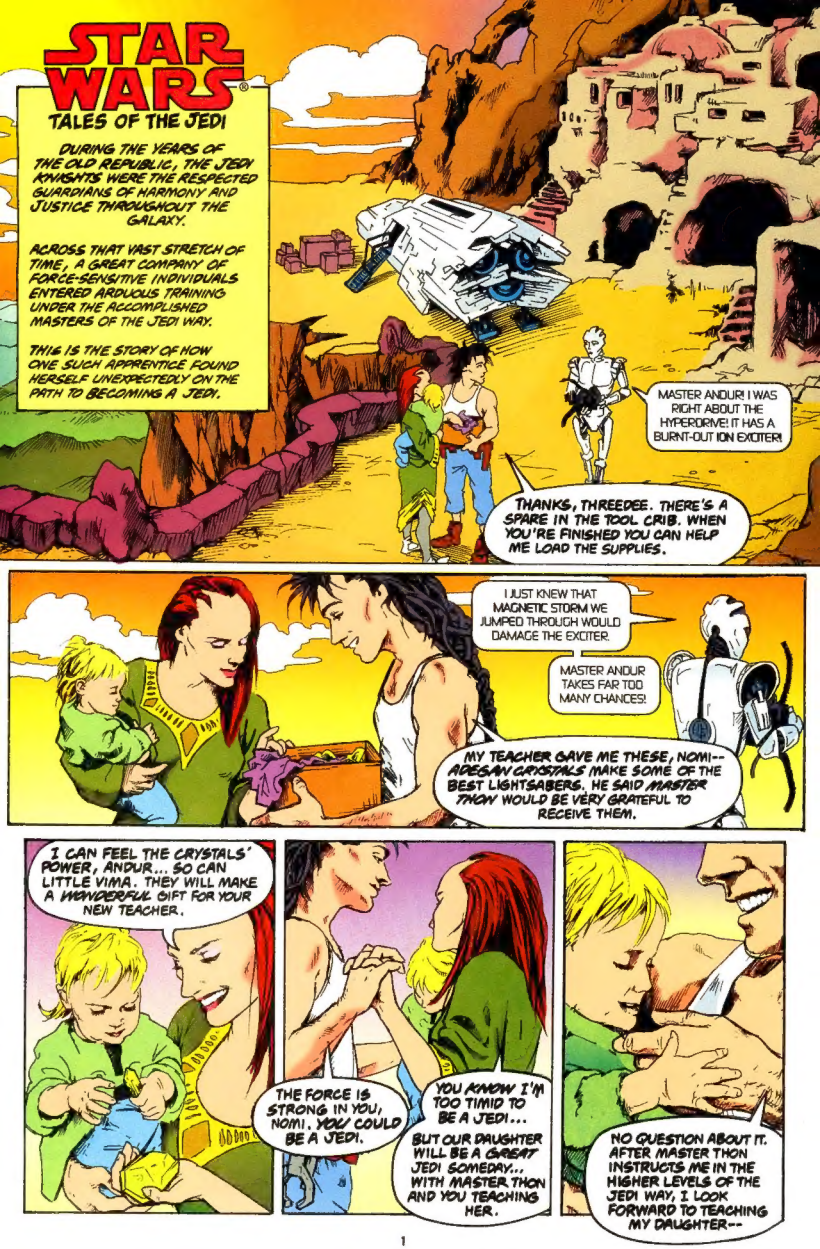
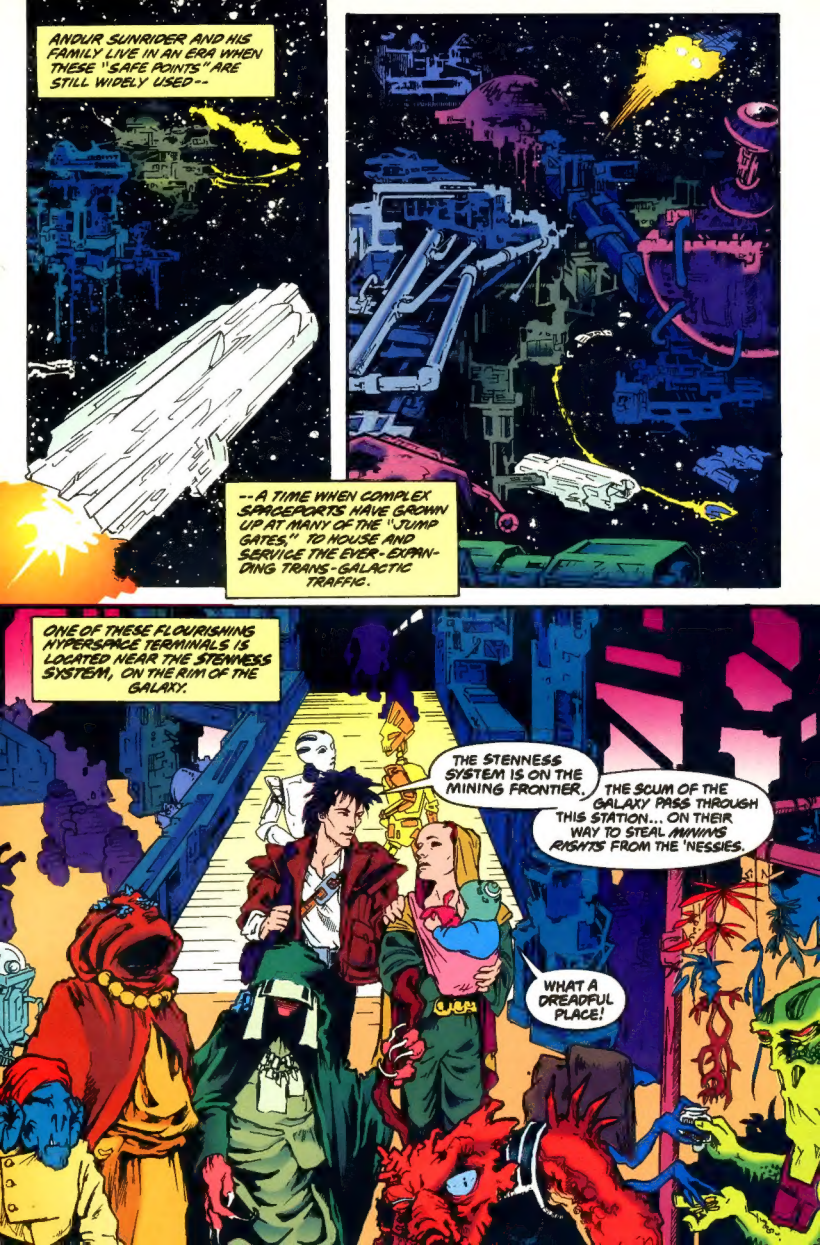

STAR WARS®
TALES OF THE JEDI
DURING THE YEARS OF THE OLD REPUBLIC, THE JEDI KNIGHTS WERE THE RESPECTED GUARDIANS OF HARMONY AND JUSTICE THROUGHOUT THE GALAXY.
ACROSS THAT VAST STRETCH OF TIME, A GREAT COMPANY OF FORCE-SENSITIVE INDIVIDUALS ENTERED ARDUOUS TRAINING UNDER THE ACCOMPLISHED MASTERS OF THE JEDI WAY.
THIS IS THE STORY OF HOW ONE SUCH APPRENTICE FOUND HERSELF UNEXPECTEDLY ON THE PATH TO BECOMING A JEDI.
MASTER ANDUR! I WAS RIGHT ABOUT THE HYPERDRIVE! IT HAS A BURNT-OUT ION EXCITER!
THANKS, THREEDEE. THERE'S A SPARE IN THE TOOL CRIB. WHEN YOU'RE FINISHED YOU CAN HELP ME LOAD THE SUPPLIES.
I JUST KNEW THAT MAGNETIC STORM WE JUMPED THROUGH WOULD DAMAGE THE EXCITER.
MASTER ANDUR TAKES FAR TOO MANY CHANCES!
MY TEACHER GAVE ME THESE, NOMI-- ADEGAN CRYSTALS. MAKE SOME OF THE BEST LIGHTSABERS. HE SAID MASTER THON WOULD BE VERY GRATEFUL TO RECEIVE THEM.
I CAN FEEL THE CRYSTALS' POWER, ANDUR... SO CAN LITTLE VIMA. THEY WILL MAKE A WONDERFUL GIFT FOR YOUR NEW TEACHER.
THE FORCE IS STRONG IN YOU, NOMI. YOU COULD BE A JEDI.
YOU KNOW I'M TOO TIMID TO BE A JEDI... BUT OUR DAUGHTER WILL BE A GREAT JEDI SOMEDAY... WITH MASTER THON AND YOU TEACHING HER.
NO QUESTION ABOUT IT. AFTER MASTER THON INSTRUCTS ME IN THE HIGHER LEVELS OF THE JEDI WAY, I LOOK FORWARD TO TEACHING MY DAUGHTER--

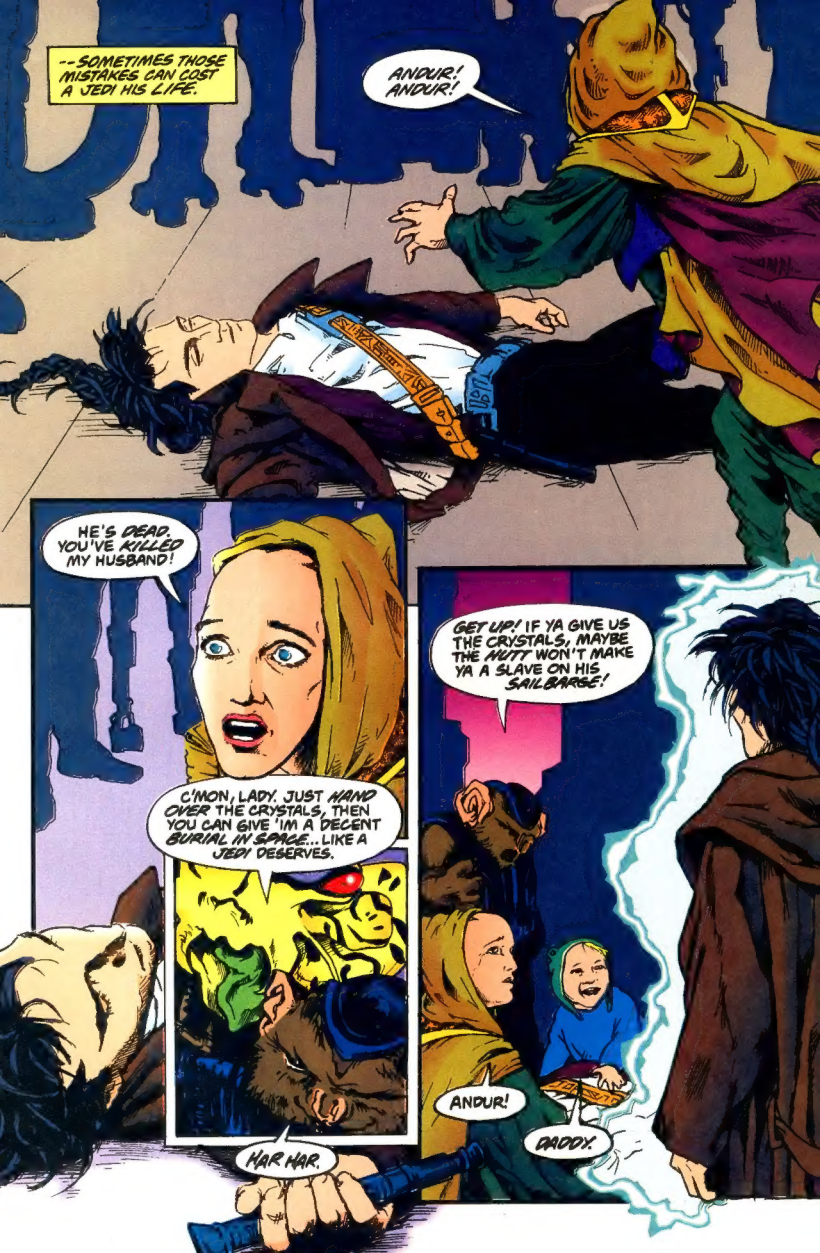
"--BUT MARK MY WORDS... FIRST I WILL HELP YOU TO BECOME A JEDI, NOMI SUNRIDER!"
AT THE BEHEST OF HIS OWN MENTOR, THE JEDI KNIGHT ANDUR SUNRIDER BEGINS A LONG JOURNEY WITH HIS FAMILY TO THE GALACTIC FRONTIER.
HIS PURPOSE IS TO VISIT THE LEGENDARY MASTER THON, JEDI WATCHMAN OF THE STENNESS SYSTEM.
OKAY, THREEDEE-- THERE'S THE JUMP BEACON-- GET READY TO KICK IN THE HYPERDRIVE.
THE HYPERDRIVE TELLS ME IT'S READY, MASTER ANDUR.
BEFORE THE DEVELOPMENT OF HYPERSPACE TRAVEL, STAR SYSTEMS LIVED IN GREAT ISOLATION FROM ONE ANOTHER. MILLIONS OF CIVILIZATIONS ROSE AND FELL WITHOUT EVER LEARNING OF EACH OTHER'S EXISTENCE.
IN THAT FAR GONE TIME, HYPERSPACE TRAVEL WAS ONLY A THEORY IN THE MINDS OF A FEW ADVANCED THINKERS.
THEN, ABOUT 20,000 YEARS BEFORE ANDUR AND NOMI'S DAY, FASTER-THAN-LIGHT DRIVES WERE INVENTED. OVERNIGHT, A GREAT DIMENSION, OUTSIDE ORDINARY TIME AND SPACE, WAS OPENED TO ANYONE WILLING TO TAKE THE DANGEROUS LEAP INTO THE UNKNOWN.
THOSE ANCIENT EXPLORERS OF HYPERSPACE ERECTED BEACONS BETWEEN THE STARS, AT THE JUMP COORDINATES THAT WERE KNOWN TO BE SAFE AND RELIABLE...


ANDUR SUNRIDER AND HIS FAMILY LIVE IN AN ERA WHEN THESE "SAFE POINTS" ARE STILL WIDELY USED--
--A TIME WHEN COMPLEX SPACEPORTS HAVE GROWN UP AT MANY OF THE "JUMP GATES," TO HOUSE AND SERVICE THE EVER-EXPANDING TRANS-GALACTIC TRAFFIC.
ONE OF THESE FLOURISHING HYPERSPACE TERMINALS IS LOCATED NEAR THE STENNESS SYSTEM, ON THE RIM OF THE GALAXY.
THE STENNESS SYSTEM IS ON THE MINING FRONTIER.
THE SCUM OF THE GALAXY PASS THROUGH THIS STATION... ON THEIR WAY TO STEAL MINING RIGHTS FROM THE 'NESSIES.
WHAT A DREADFUL PLACE!

DREADFUL INDEED! THE NEW VISITORS IMMEDIATELY BECOME THE OBJECT OF SCRUTINY BY CERTAIN UNSAVORY ELEMENTS WHO ROOST IN THE SPACEPORT.
HEY, BOSS... SEE THAT JEDI WITH THE WOMAN AND KID? I HEARD 'IM TALKIN' ABOUT SOME ADEGAN CRYSTALS HE'S CARRYIN'!
HAWR HAWR HAWR. GOOD WORK, GUDB. ADEGAN CRYSTALS! I HAVE A CLIENT WHO'LL PAY ME A GRAND SUM FOR THOSE PRETTIES.
GET THEM. BUT WATCH OUT-- HE'S A JEDI.
DON'T WORRY BOSS... I'VE FACED A COUPLE OF JEDI IN MY TIME. I LEARNED A THING OR TWO.
OH GOOD, HERE COMES THREEPEE WITH THE FOOD. LITTLE VIMA IS FAMISHED.
OUR SHIP WILL BE CLEARED THROUGH CUSTOMS IN ABOUT TWENTY MINUTES...
LET'S EAT QUICKLY. I'M ANXIOUS TO FIND MASTER THON.

I HOPE THE CHILD FINDS THIS FOOD EDIBLE, MISTRESS NOMI. NO ONE WOULD TELL ME WHAT'S IN IT!
I'M SURE IT WILL BE FINE, THREEDEE. ...UNLESS IT'S STENNESS LIZARD PIE!
OH, DEAR. THAT'S PROBABLY WHAT--
HEY! WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOIN', DROID!
AS ANDUR'S MULTI-TALENTED SERVICE DROID BRINGS NOURISHMENT, THE GANGSTERS MAKE THEIR MOVE--
REALLY, THERE WAS NO NEED FOR THAT, SIR. MY SENSORS TELL ME YOU PURPOSELY DEVIATED FROM YOUR PATH!
YOU CALLIN' MY FRIEND A LIAR, DROID?
BLAST HIM, QUANTO. SPACE JUNK SHOULDN'T TALK BACK TO FLESH AN' BLOOD!
SIT TIGHT, NOMI. THOSE THUGS ARE GOING TO HARM THREEDEE. I'VE GOT TO TAKE CARE OF THIS.

LET GO OF THAT DROID. HE DIDN'T DO ANYTHING TO YOU.
OH YEAH? WHO SEZ?
KNOWING HOW DIFFICULT IT CAN BE TO TAKE ANYTHING FROM A JEDI, TWO OF THE HUTT'S UGLY HENCHMEN, QUANTO AND REK, STAGE A DIVERSION--
--WHILE GUDB, MASTERMIND OF THE SCHEME, PREPARES TO UNLEASH HIS PET GORM-WORM--
PUT DOWN THAT BLASTER OR I'LL CUT YOU IN HALF.
MASTER ANDUR – BEHIND YOU!
OKAY, SKRITCH -- TIME TA LOAD YER POISON SACS--
--GET 'IM!
SKRRAAWWW!
THEY SAY A JEDI CAN SENSE A CLANDESTINE ATTACKER THROUGH THE FORCE--
AH! AHHHG! NOMI! HELP ME!
BUT SOMETIMES A JEDI HAS NOT COMPLETED HIS TRAINING... SOMETIME A JEDI MAKES FOOLISH MISTAKES--


--SOMETIMES THOSE MISTAKES CAN COST A JEDI HIS LIFE.
ANDUR! ANDUR!
HE'S DEAD. YOU'VE KILLED MY HUSBAND!
C'MON, LADY. JUST HAND OVER THE CRYSTALS. THEN YOU CAN GIVE 'IM A DECENT BURIAL IN SPACE... LIKE A JEDI DESERVES.
HAR HAR.
GET UP! IF YA GIVE US THE CRYSTALS, MAYBE THE HUTT WON'T MAKE YA A SLAVE ON HIS SAILBARGE!
ANDUR!
DADDY.

NOMI SUNRIDER DOES NOT HEAR THE THREATS OF THE GANGSTERS, AS THE SPIRIT-FORM OF HER JEDI HUSBAND SPEAKS TO HER FROM THE LUMINOUS BEYOND--
DON'T WEEP FOR ME, NOMI. THIS IS NOT THE TIME FOR TEARS...
TAKE MY LIGHTSABER... USE IT TO PROTECT YOURSELF! THE FORCE IS WITH YOU!
HER MIND SUDDENLY STILLED BY THE SIGHT OF ANDUR'S LUMINOUS FORM, NOMI INSTINCTIVELY REACHES FOR THE LIGHTSABER--
AS THE LIGHTSABER IGNITES, SHE HEARS ANDUR'S VOICE WHISPERING INSTRUCTION--
"FEEL THE FORCE, NOMI... LET IT FLOW INTO YOUR ARMS..."
YES, THE FORCE IS THERE, STRONGER THAN SHE'S EVER FELT IT BEFORE... FLOWING AROUND HER AND THROUGH HER, FILLING HER WITH STRENGTH AND CONVICTION.
HER FEAR DISSOLVES, UTTERLY, AS SHE LISTENS TO HER HUSBAND'S FINAL WORDS--
"THE FORCE IS STRONG IN YOU, NOMI. IT ALWAYS WAS. IT ALWAYS WILL BE. PROTECT YOURSELF... SAVE OUR DAUGHTER."
NEXT: THE INITIATION OF A JEDI

A LONG, LONG TIME AGO, IN A GALAXY FAR, FAR AWAY...

"THIS IS THE WEAPON OF A JEDI KNIGHT . . . NOT AS CLUMSY OR AS RANDOM AS A BLASTER. AN ELEGANT WEAPON . . . FOR A MORE CIVILIZED TIME. FOR OVER A THOUSAND GENERATIONS THE JEDI KNIGHTS WERE THE MOST POWERFUL, MOST RESPECTED FORCE IN THE GALAXY . . . THE GUARDIANS OF PEACE AND JUSTICE IN THE OLD REPUBLIC."

These stirring words, spoken by Obi-Wan Kenobi to Luke Skywalker at their very first meeting, call up visions of countless tales yet untold. Because of the immense size of the Galaxy, we estimate that the Jedi Knights, over their entire 25,000 year history, numbered in the hundreds of thousands — perhaps millions. No one may ever know the exact accounting, but it seems abundantly clear that a vast quantity of heroic adventures involving Jedi took place in the time of the Old Republic.

We asked Lucasfilm for permission to tell some of these tales. Permission was granted.

THE JEDI HOLOCRON REVEALS THE PAST

Our framing device is the Jedi Holocron, an ancient artifact containing secret Jedi teachings and histories. In *Dark Empire*, Princess Leia Organa Solo recovered the Holocron from evil Emperor Palpatine. As will become apparent in the sequel to *Dark Empire*, this precious wisdom source is destined to help Luke and Leia revive the Jedi Knights.

Now the Holocron will also open a window on the past, revealing the forgotten exploits of the great company of Jedi.

A VAST SPACE OF IMAGINATION

A thousand generations of a galaxy of star systems represents a nearly limitless realm of imaginative possibility. In order to find our way in such an unbounded territory, it is necessary to focus, at first, on a single important period

of time. Our initial tales take place about 4,000 years before the coming of Palpatine and his Empire. This ancient time was a pivotal period for the Jedi, a time when some of the most legendary Jedi Masters lived and fought. It was a time when the Dark Side of the Force made great inroads in the affairs of nations, worlds, star systems . . . and Galactic civilization.

Thus it was a time of extraordinary testing for the Jedi Knights. As the Holocron has already told us (in the text pages of *Dark Empire* #5), some very great Jedi *failed* this testing.

More than anything, it was a time in which the lives of many valiant Jedi became woven together in one seamless heroic tapestry, a period of climactic events affecting the fate of millions.

A JEDI FINDS HER MASTER

We will begin where we must, telling one story at a time, introducing each character in the context of their personal history. The Holocron speaks first of Nomi Sunrider, a woman Jedi who apprenticed herself to Master Thon of Ambria. Ultimately, during the course of a difficult apprenticeship, Nomi became adept in the use of Jedi mental powers. In Leia Organa Solo's day, Nomi is remembered as one of the greatest women Jedi of all time. (Nomi's first daughter, Vima, also became a Jedi. Vima Sunrider was the great-great-great grandmother of Vima Da-Boda, the old woman Jedi who gave Leia a lightsaber in Dark Empire.)

Nomi's initial story is presented in three parts in *Dark Horse Comics*. It is drawn by Janine Johnston, an artist living in Vancouver, British Columbia. Janine is doing her first comics work, after being a painter, illustrator, and photographer for a number of years. Janine was chosen by Lucasfilm from a large number of submissions. We think she has a special flair for human faces, environments, aliens . . . and cool looking droids.

A second tale, "Ulic Qel-Droma and the Beast Wars of Onduron," is concurrently running in the *Dark Horse Insider*. It is drawn by Chris Gossett, another fine newcomer to comics.

As we said, "Tales of the Jedi" tells of a time when many individual lives became woven together in one grand heroic tapestry. To weave a tapestry, you must take up your tools in one small corner and work your way gradually through a thousand tiny details, until the whole design comes into view. Let us begin our weaving then, as the Holocron tells us these tales. And may the Force be with us!

— Tom Veitch

THE FIREBALL CAME FROM THE SKY, RAINING DOWN WRATH AND VENGEANCE.
IT FELL TO END A GANG THREAT, AND WIPED AWAY A CITY BLOCK--
--ENGULFING BOTH THE BLOCK'S PREDATORS AND ITS DEFENDERS--
MURPHY...?
--ALONG WITH THE CYBORG POLICE-MAN KNOWN TO DETROIT AS...
ROBOCOP™

I'M FINE, SGT. REED. MY HULL IS RESISTANT TO EXTREME TEMPERATURES.
THERE IS A PROBLEM WITH MY GUN, HOWEVER.
HEY! YOU TWO!
CLEAR THE STREETS BEFORE I RUN YOU IN. THIS IS A POLICE EMERGENCY AREA.
YOU'RE OUT OF YOUR JURISDICTION, RIZZO! GO BACK TO PHILADELPHIA.
WATCH THE LIP, PUNK. YOU TALK TO ME, YOU CALL ME COMMANDER CARLYSLE-- AND PUT A SIR AT THE END OF IT.
HAVEN'T YOU HEARD? WE PICKED UP THE DETROIT FRANCHISE. WE'RE MOVING IN.
JUST LIKE YOU DID IN BOSTON--AND LOUISVILLE? JUST LIKE IT!
YOU VAPORIZED INNOCENT MEN!
THEY WERE AMATEURS. I'D LOSE A MILLION LIKE THEM TO WIPE OUT STREET PUNKS.
STAY OUT OF OUR WAY. YOU'RE AMATEURS NOW, TOO.

I CAN'T BELIEVE THEY HIRED THIS TOWN OUT TO THE PHILLY COPS. CHRIST, DOESN'T ANYONE FOLLOW THE NEWS ANYMORE?
HOW'S MURPHY?
PHYSICALLY? NOTHING I CAN'T FIX.
THIS HEARING IS ANOTHER QUESTION.
I WISH WE HAD THE MONEY TO AFFORD A LAWYER.
IF MURPHY'S DECLARED A MACHINE, HE'LL BE DISMANTLED AND SOLD FOR SCRAP WITH THE REST OF OCP.
NOT TO MENTION HORDES OF CORPORATE VULTURES WAITING TO GET THEIR HANDS ON THE ROBOCOP TECHNOLOGY.
BUT HOW DO WE PROVE HE'S HUMAN--THAT HE'S NOT JUST PROPERTY?
HOW DO WE SHOW THE JUDGE THAT, REGARDLESS OF METAL AND PROGRAMMING, THERE'S STILL A MAN IN THERE?

ATTENTION! THIS AREA IS NOW THE PROPERTY OF THE PHILADELPHIA POLICE DEPARTMENT!
UNAUTHORIZED PERSONNEL ON THE PREMISES WILL BE TERMINATED! DO WE MAKE OURSELVES CLEAR?
THIS IS A FILTHY EXCUSE FOR A TOWN, STOKES. ANY OF OUR CLIENTS CAUSING TROUBLE?
NO, SIR. THEY WOULDN'T DARE, COMMANDER CARLYSLE, SIR.
ROGER STERN RULES
BOSCO
COME IN, GENTLEMEN.
SORRY TO BOTHER YOU, BUT WE FELT IT IMPORTANT TO MAKE CONTACT WITH THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
WE WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT WE'RE THE NEW POLICE IN TOWN. I'M SURE YOU'VE HEARD OF US-- THE RIZZOS. DON'T CALL US THAT.
A POLICE FORCE ISN'T CHEAP, GENTLEMEN, SO IT'S UP TO YOU TO SUPPORT US. DIG DEEP. GIVE GENEROUSLY.
YOU NEVER KNOW WHO YOU'LL NEED PROTECTION AGAINST...

ALL IN ALL, THAT WENT PRETTY WELL. YOUR OPINION, STOKES?
I THINK WE'LL MEET WITH RESISTANCE, SIR. WE DETERMINED SOME LIKELY CANDIDATES.
THERE'S ALWAYS RESISTANCE -- IT'S HUMAN NATURE. PART OF OUR JOB IS TO ADJUST HUMAN NATURE.
DO YOUR JOB. ADJUST IT.
STOKES, COULD YOU EXCUSE US?
ROBOCOP IS STILL ALIVE.
I KNOW HE'S STILL ALIVE. LOOK, WE WANT HIM DEAD, TOO. THIS CITY WON'T REALLY BE OURS UNTIL HE'S GONE.
I THOUGHT WE GOT HIM THIS AFTERNOON, BUT NO SUCH LUCK. DON'T WORRY, WE'LL GET TO IT.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, COFFIN?
MY EMPLOYER SUPPLIES MOST OF THE WEAPONS TO YOUR DEPARTMENT, CARLYSLE.
THERE'S SUPPOSED TO BE AN UNDERSTANDING. HE WANTS RESULTS, NOT QUESTIONS.

MR. AGINCOURT'S BUSINESS IN DETROIT IS NONE OF YOUR CONCERN.
WHAT DOES CONCERN YOU IS THAT HE WANTS ROBOCOP REMOVED. IT'S A SIMPLE REQUEST-- YES?
--Y-Y-YESS--
TIME IS SHORT, CARLYSLE. WE CAN'T LEAVE THIS UP TO YOU.
I'M TAKING OVER THE ROBOCOP OPERATION. ANY OBJECTIONS?
NO.
GOOD.
NOW HERE'S WHAT WE DO...

MAD DOGS
PART 4
ALL RIGHT, EVERYONE MADE IT OUT OF THERE, AND THAT'S GREAT.
NOW, SOME QUESTIONS HAVE TO BE ANSWERED, SUCH AS--
WHO NEEDS YOU?!
YOU SYBIL, ISN'T IT?
HOW THE HELL DID YOU GET OUT OF YOUR ROOM?!
SOMETHING WOKE ME UP, AND MY CELL DOOR WAS OPEN.
I THOUGHT YOU DID IT, SO I COULD HELP YOU CREATE A DIVERSION.

NO. NOBODY IN THIS TEAM PICKS LOCKS
CHESTER DID IT.
ENOUGH WITH THAT CRAP!
EVERYONE KNOWS THAT THE "DUMMY" IS CATATONIC
NOT TRUE.
ACCORDING TO DR. SCHWANN, THE SUBJECT IS AUTISTIC, SEVERELY INTROVERTED IN THE PRESENCE OF PEOPLE.
LEFT ALONE, HE IS FREE OF SUCH INHIBITIONS, FREE TO MOVE ABOUT AND EXERCISE HIS GENIUS LEVEL IQ.
..GENIUS?
IN FACT, IN LIGHT OF WHAT YOU'VE TOLD ME, IT APPEARS THAT THIS "DUMMY" ENGINEERED YOUR ENTIRE ESCAPE.
WITH A BIT OF HELP FROM LI'L OL' ME.
OKAY, SO YOU TWO CAN BE USEFUL, BUT DON'T YOU REALIZE THAT A CITY-WIDE DRAGNET WILL BE THROWN OUT, AND SOON.

THE REST OF YOU CAN BLEND IN; BUT WHAT ABOUT THAT NUT?
YOU GENIUSES HAVE A PLAN TO HIDE HIM?
HOW ARE...
WHERE --WHERE'D HE GO?
NOT FAR.
HEH HEH HEH HEH

A LONG DAY'S SEARCH HAS TURNED UP NOTHING FOR DR SCHWANN.
NOT YET.
STAY IN THE CAR. WE PROBABLY WON'T BE HERE TOO LONG.
EDWARD IS WATCHING
POLICE SAID THEY GOT A CALL ABOUT A BUNCH OF FOLKS IN HOSPITAL CLOTHES HEREABOUTS, BUT I DON'T SEE NOTHING.
NO, ERNEST, I SUPPOSE YOU DON'T, BUT FORTUNATELY--
CARCOS
-I SEE PLENTY.
HEY! YOU!
MUMMH, WHAT?

YOU SEEN A PACK OF NUTS AROUND HERE, DRESSED IN HOSPITAL CLOTHES?
I DIDN'T SEE NOTHIN'! NOTHIN' AT ALL--
HE SAYS HE DIDN'T SEE--
SHUT UP AND GRAB HIM
YOU SEE, ERNEST, YOUR INTERROGATION TECHNIQUES LEAVE A GREAT DEAL TO BE DESIRED
HOLY #%@! WHAT THE FRIG ARE YOU GONNA DO?!
IT'S NOT WHAT I AM GOING TO DO, MY GOOD MAN.
IT'S GOING TO BE A TEAM EFFORT.
YOU AND ME.
AND WHAT WE ARE GOING TO DO IS GET AT THE TRUTH.

Y'KNOW, DR SCHWANN, I REALLY DON'T THINK HE KNEW ANY-THING.
OF COURSE HE DIDN'T. NOBODY COULD ENDURE THAT MUCH PAIN WITHOUT TELLING THE TRUTH.
BUT-- BUT, DOC. HE DIED.
WE ALL DO, ERNEST.
HMM. I GUESS WE WERE GONE SO LONG, FRANK DECIDED TO TRY AND FIND US.
GREAT! NOW WE'LL HAVE TO FIND HIM.
WHAT'S WRONG?
DON'T KNOW. IT JUST WON'T START.
TAKE A LOOK UNDER THE HOOD
HEY, SOMBONE SWIPED OUR BATTERY!
YAAAAAAH!
SO WHAT DO WE--

ERNEST?
ERNEST, WHERE ARE YOU?
EEEEEEE
F-F-FIGUERA? IS THAT YOU?
NOT EXACTLY

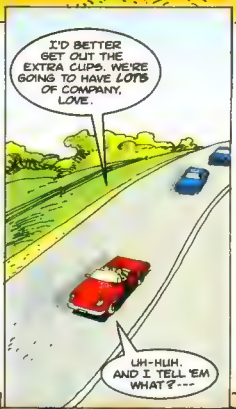
SHOCK THERAPY.
IT TAKES AWAY A MAN'S MEMORIES, HIS EMOTIONS, SO THAT THEY CAN NEVER COME BACK.
NOT COMPLETELY
DOCTORS WANT PEOPLE TO BELIEVE THAT THIS ISN'T THE DEATH OF A MAN, BUT HIS REBIRTH AS A NEW, BETTER MAN
ARE YOU READY TO BE REBORN, DOCTOR?

PREDATOR™

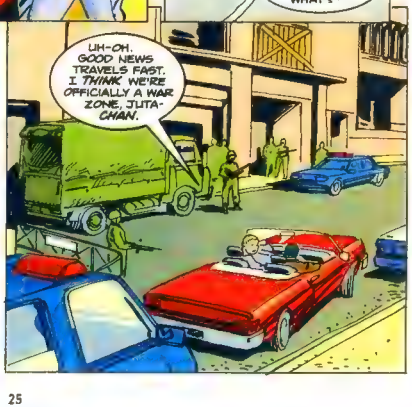
BLOOD FEUD

PART 4

DON'T STAND THERE AND TELL ME YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT CREATURE IS, JUTA. I'VE GOT DEAD MEN HERE!
I HAVE DEAD FRIENDS AS WELL. I KNOW IT IS HERE. I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS...



---THAT I WAS IN TOKUGAWA TSUNAYOSHI'S COURT THREE HUNDRED YEARS AGO? IF THAT A MONSTER FROM MY PAST WANTS MY ASS UP ON A HOOK? YOU'LL BE VISITING ME IN AN ASYLUM, ELAINE.
YOU THINK THEY'LL LET ME STAY OVERNIGHT?



"WE ARE ENEMIES... YOU HAVE COME FOR ME, YET YOU WILL NOT KILL ME... WHY? WHAT IS IT I CANNOT SEE?"
MAYBE WE OUGHT TO BE GLAD MITSUGI'S BRINGING IN THE BIG GUNS, YOU KNOW? I'D JUST AS SOON SEE YOU IN A BUNKER SOMEWHERE...
..JUTA?
"IF YOU ARE THERE, MY SENSEI OF THE PAST, OPEN THESE UNSEEING EYES AND SHOW ME... SHOW ME WHAT YOU HAVE CHOSEN ME TO DO!"
"I DID NOT CHOOSE YOU, JUTA. THE GODS CALLED YOU TO FACE THE ONI THEN... NOW, THEY HAVE CALLED UPON YOU ONCE AGAIN... LOOK... SEARCH WITHIN YOURSELF..."
"I SEE NOTHING WITHIN ME BUT MY DEATH... HONOR DESERTS ME... I BEG THE DEMON FOR MY LIFE!"
"SEARCH DEEPER THEN."
"SEARCH FOR WHAT? THERE IS NOTHING THERE, NOTHING BUT A--
OH... MY... GOD!
"YOU ASK TOO MUCH OF ME... I FACED THIS ONCE... I CANNOT DO IT AGAIN!"
"SEE WHAT IS WITHIN YOU, JUTA... SEE IT..."

GENERAL KATARO, SIR! THIS AREA IS--
GET THE HELL OUT OF MY WAY, CAPTAIN, UNLESS YOU'RE BUCKING FOR LATRINE SERGEANT. BRING THIS JUTA TANAKA OUT HERE -- NOW!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE INTO, BUT YOU'VE GOT THE WHOLE COUNTRY ON RED ALERT. YOU WANT TO TELL ME WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
THE STUDENT COMES WHEN THE SENSEI CALLS. BUT I'VE GOT AN IDEA I'M NOT GOING TO LIKE THIS...YOU HAVEN'T ANSWERED MY QUESTION, WHICH MEANS YOU DON'T INTEND TO, RIGHT?
I AM GRATEFUL FOR YOUR HELP, MIYAMOTO. I HAD NO RIGHT TO BRING YOU INTO THIS. BUT THERE WAS NO ONE ELSE
THERE IS NOTHING I CAN SAY, MY FRIEND, THAT YOU OR ANYONE ELSE IS LIKELY TO BELIEVE. WOULD YOU ASK YOUR DRIVER TO--
THAT ONE I GUESSED. I'M NOT SURE I CAN GET IN THERE, SENSEI. WHATEVER'S GOING ON THERE, IT'S LOCKED UP TIGHT.
DON'T STOP TO ASK THEM, MIYAMOTO. I DON'T HAVE THE TIME
RIGHT...

"GUIDE ME .. SHOW ME.."
IT'S-- THE HELMET OF A DEMON-- AND THE BLADE IS THE KATANA OF MY FAMILY-- THE TWIN OF THE ONE I BROUGHT FROM HOME! WHY WOULD THE DEMON-THING AND THE SWORD BE TOGETHER--
GAAAARK!

. AND I WAS COMPLAINING YOU WOULDN'T FIGHT. MUST HAVE BEEN--
UUUUUH!
--OUT OF MY GODDAMN MIND!
DEAD QUICK...
"JUTA... HE KNOWS YOU NOW... HE KNOWS WHO YOU ARE..."
DONE NOW... FINISHED...
"HE DID NOT FULLY KNOW YOU BEFORE NOW HE KNOWS YOU ARE THE ONE..."
"HE HAS SEEN THIS IN THE HELM OF HIS HUNT BROTHER, THE DEMON YOU KILLED LONG AGO... THE MEMORY OF ALL THAT HAPPENED THAT DAY IS THERE..."
"NO, IT IS NOT. LISTEN TO ME! HE SEES WHAT ONLY HIS BROTHER DEMON SAW BEFORE... THAT THE JUTA YOU WERE WAS BLIND AS WELL..."

"..THAT THE JUTA YOU WERE AND THE JUTA YOU ARE CAN SEE IN THE OTHER WAY... AS THE DEMONS THEMSELVES CAN SEE .."
"...NOW HE IS FREE TO FINISH WHAT HE CAME SO FAR TO DO... ERASE THE SHAME OF HIS BROTHER'S DEFEAT.."
HE'S DOING A-- HELL OF A JOB SO FAR...
YOU GOING TO USE-- THAT, ARE YOU? YOUR UGLY BROTHER HAD HONOR, YOU BASTARD. HE TRIED TO KILL ME WITH THIS!
?
TUMP!
THUMP!

MY GOD. I'M... ALIVE.
"THE VISION OF YOUR DEATH WAS CREATED BY YOUR OWN FEARS, JUTA. THE TRUE DEATH IS THE END OF ALL THIS..."
OVER NOW...
CLANG!
THE END

LONG SHOTS

10956 SE Main Street, Milwaukie, OR 97222

We've got some comments on issues #2 and 3 this month, so without further ado . . .

Jacob Gilbert
118 4th St., Apt. 1
Troy, NY 12180

Re: *Dark Horse Comics* #2

"RoboCop": J. P. Leon's facials on ol' Robo resemble Kevin Maguire's work, and here, that's a minus. Overall, this does look a tad too cartoony, something I don't think I noticed the first time. Blah.

"Renegade": Claremont actually ties up loose ends?! Incredible! But seriously, folks, I still felt as though I was missing something. I await Claremont's Predator, though, hoping he can yet top himself.

"Time Cop: A Man Out of Time": This should be the headline feature, not RoboCop. Hester and Wagner capture the right mood, and their work does bear a little resemblance to Gene Colan, circa *Daredevil* or *Tomb of Dracula*. I'm finding this much more entertaining than any of the other features, and that includes . . .

"Predator: Rite of Passage": As demonstrated in previous Predbooks, the story is best told from a certain viewpoint, so the reader feels as though he/she's right there. This is non-existent here. As with "Renegade," there is a missing element that detracts from the story. If this were done by anyone but Leonardi, it wouldn't mean that there is improvement. Don't get me wrong, I like the story, but it's best if told from the viewpoint of at least one of the combatants.

❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖

And here are two communiques from Galen West:

Galen S. West
3500 Geer Rd. #36
Turlock, CA 95380

Now that I have read the first two issues of *Dark Horse Comics*, I feel that I have to respond to what I have read. All of the stories were incredibly good. My favorite was the "Time Cop: A Man Out of Time" story. I thought that it was the best written, and held my attention best. I liked the "Predator: Rite of Passage" story second best. It was an interesting change of pace from previous Predator stories. I hope that the rest will be as good (if there are any more planned). Third and fourth went to "Renegade" and "RoboCop" respectively.

Second, the art was brilliant. From the cover art to the last page, I was never disappointed in the quality of the artwork. Even though there were four different styles of art represented in the quality of the artwork, they all were excellent and made the stories the best that they could have been.

. . . and:

Issue #3 of *Dark Horse Comics* was definitely a mixed bag of stories. The artwork, for starters, in all the stories, was definitely different than what I have seen before in any non-manga DH book.

The first story, "Aliens: Horror Show," was an okay story. It wasn't too exciting and the artwork didn't help either. It didn't detract from the story, it just didn't help it. The last frame was probably the best frame.

The second story, "RoboCop," was just too cartoony for me. It just wasn't my style of art and story.

The third story, "Indiana Jones and the Shrine of the Sea Devil," was probably my second favorite story. I liked the art and the story was really good. I will definitely look forward to other IJ stories.

The fourth and last story, "Time Cop: A Man Out of Time," was, and still is, my favorite story. The story is good and the art is better. I hope that there will be other Time Cop stories in the future (get it? ha ha).

Next month we'll have a couple of debuts — "X" and "James Bond" — and some more "Star Wars" and "RoboCop." 'Til then, I'm . . .

— Bob Cooper

The Finish Line

I've always subscribed to the old aphorism that it's better to keep one's mouth shut and be thought a fool than to open one's mouth and remove all doubt. But, sometimes certain circumstances arise that prevent me from abiding by my conservative predilections. That's what you get for working in an office. Compromise, compromise, compromise. In this instance, it was being asked to write a Finish Line about creators and creative control. So ... wait for it ... I'm going to have to open my mouth ...

Long before the publication of *Aliens, Predator, RoboCop, Indiana Jones,* or any of the other licensed books that are identified with Dark Horse, Mike Richardson and Randy Stradley founded a company committed to the rights of comics creators to own and control their own work and be paid a fair amount for it. In effect, a partnership. This was, to a large extent, a reaction to the corporate-owned nature of the business at that time. Creators often found it difficult to place a new idea with the corporate giants and, if they were lucky enough to get a contract, these creators often were forced to relinquish copyright and ancillary rights. Ouch.

I believe that the concept of creator-ownership and publisher/creator partnership is revolutionary. It's also incredibly infectious. Once one person gets it, it grows and develops until it's passed to another. Some exposed by this "virus" show almost no signs of infection (maybe they have antibodies) and others become rabid dogs, compelled to bite at any passersby (until they're taken behind the barn and shot, anyway). This "new" concept of creator control (really the old Underground Comics *raison d'être* cleaned up for a new generation) ran like a virus (or a "meme," if anyone is familiar with the work of Richard Dawkins in *The Unselfish Gene*) through the comics world. Some, I'm sure, would liken this process to a plague; others to a revolution.

From this situation, Dark Horse and a number of other "independent" publishers arose to infect the whole of the comics marketplace with the revolutionary/infectious concept of creator-ownership. This was a glorious and heady time like any "new wave" or "independent" movement for experimentation and freedom of expression. But, like most "independent" movements, creator ownership shifted back toward the commercial mainstream (as would be expected). But, little did anyone know that this new concept of creator-ownership would, in effect, infect the whole *body politic* of the comics world. This change in the structure of the marketplace has not been without symptoms (as is the case in all viral infections) but the after-effects have been remarkable, e.g., Image Comics. (Anyone out there familiar with the work of Thomas Kuhn ought to recognize this "paradigm shift," in which the old way of doing and thinking about things is "over-thrown" in a revolutionary way.)

Through this process, Dark Horse has found itself poised on the fence between the old paradigm (our licensed and company-owned properties) and the new one of creator-owned books. It is this balance, I believe, that positions Dark Horse as one of the most dynamic publishers in the business. It is also this balance that gives Dark Horse its distinctive "personality" and reputation. And, it is from this position that Dark Horse will be branching out into very exciting territory during 1993. We will continue to produce licensed and company-owned material, but we will also publish new work in partnership with some of the most talented creators in the industry.

We also want to take this dangerous new concept of creator-ownership into other markets. We'll see what happens. It may mean that the dominant way of doing things in another market is infected by this "virus." If so, the control that comics creators enjoy in this marketplace will expand to other creators in other markets. What will this mean for these other markets? The same thing it does to the comics market. I'll leave with another aphorism (because I can never think of anything new), this one by Nietzsche: "That which doesn't kill me makes me stronger."

I'm out of space and time. I'll close my mouth now.

–Jerry Prosser

FEBRUARY CHECKLIST

SHIPPING FEBRUARY 2

- ☐ Alien³ Movie Special #3 (U.K. Edition)
- ☐ Aliens: Colonial Marines #2
- ☐ Aliens Volume 2 #3 (U.K. Edition)
- ☐ Classic Star Wars #7
- ☐ Dark Horse Presents #71
- ☐ Grendel: War Child #7
- ☐ Predator: Race War #1
- ☐ Ring of Roses #4

SHIPPING FEBRUARY 9

- ☐ Aliens: Hive (Softcover Collection)
- ☐ Caravan Kidd #8
- ☐ Cheval Noir #39
- ☐ John Byrne's Next Men #12
- ☐ Nexus: Alien Justice #3
- ☐ Star Wars #2 (U.K. Edition)
- ☐ The Venus Wars II #9
- ☐ The Young Indiana Jones Chronicles #12

SHIPPING FEBRUARY 16

- ☐ Version #1.3

SHIPPING FEBRUARY 23

- ☐ Aliens: Tribes (Graphic Story Album • Softcover Edition)
- ☐ A Small Killing
- ☐ Concrete: The Complete Short Stories 1985-1989 (2nd printing)
- ☐ Dark Horse Comics #7
- ☐ Dark Horse Insider #16
- ☐ Terminal Point #1
- ☐ Virus #2

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FROM THE DIRECTOR OF "DARKMAN"
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Surrounded by evil.
Low on gas.
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SALUD.
TO THE MINUTE-MEN.
PAST, PRESENT...
...AND FUTURE.
Heine
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